

Stewart Jones (Lt. Col. 1880-1881)
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Dryden 10c

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Abraham Lincoln's Contemporaries

James Martin Green

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Feb. 19 Lincoln and Stanton Relics. 909

It is interesting to note at a time when so much attention is focused on the life of Abraham Lincoln, because next Friday will be the centenary of his birth, that Miss Georgianna Ring Green, formerly living in Troy and now in Cambridge, is the proud possessor of Lincoln's autograph in a short note he wrote in July, 1863. Miss Green also possesses a letter written at the same time by Edwin M. Stanton, who was then Secretary of War, as well as the original order to open fire upon Fort Wagner, July 11, 1863.

These interesting relics recall the death of a gallant officer, Miss Green's uncle, Lieut. Col. James Martin Green, who was killed at the assault upon Fort Wagner. When the sad news reached Troy Miss Green's father, the late Robert Green, started at once for Washington to try to obtain possession of the remains. Mr. Green went to the office of the Secretary of War, but there were many in line waiting for an audience, and he saw that he would have to wait so long that he went to the White House to see President Lincoln. When Mr. Green appeared at the door it was opened by a colored servant, who said that the President was not at home but a minute later added: "There he comes up the street." Mr. Green turned and walked down to meet the President and, after introducing himself to Mr. Lincoln, told his sad errand. President Lincoln then and there wrote a brief note to Secretary of War Stanton, saying: "Secretary of War—Please see Mr. R. Green of Troy, N. Y.," and signed his name. Mr. Green retraced his steps to the War Office, sent in the note to Secretary Stanton and was admitted at once. The letter now in Miss Green's possession was written by the Secretary of War at that time to assist Mr. Green in recovering the remains of Lieutenant Colonel Green.

The body was not recovered because of the refusal of the Confederate General Beauregard to give up the body or to allow a search to be made for it, an instance of inhumanity very much to that officer's discredit. General Gilmore sent in a flag of truce three different times with a request that his men be allowed to search for the remains, but each time the request was refused. Colonel Shaw of Massachusetts, who was at the head of a negro regiment, was killed at the same time. It was learned that his body and that of Lieutenant Colonel Green were placed in a trench with the dead colored troops under a thin covering of soil. Everything possible was done to get the remains but without avail.

